



**MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
UPPER EAST COAST REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN (UECRWSP)
ISSUES WORKSHOP
South Florida Water Management District
USDA-ARS-US Horticultural Research Laboratory
2001 South Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945
February 27, 2004**

Lennart Lindahl – Chairman of UECRWSP and SFWMD Governing Board Member was unable to attend.

Attendees:

WRAC Members:

Doug Bournique
Harry Cronin

Patrick Hayes
Richard Harvey

WRAC Alternates:

Thomas Bausch

Interested Parties:

Joan Bausch
Carrie Beeler
Dick Galantowicz
Greg Graves
John Holt
Julie Jennison

Brad Macek
Peter Merritt
Paul Millar
Dennis Murphy
Anne Murray
Marion Parsons

Richard Stenberg
Bob Ulevich
Paul Whalen

SFWMD Staff:

Bruce Adams
Jane Bucca
Mark Elsner

David Gilpin-Hudson
John Mulliken
Karen Smith

Keith Smith
Rick Smith
David Unsell
Pat Walker

1. Welcome and Introductions by John Mulliken, Acting Director, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Mr. Mulliken welcomed everyone. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and state their affiliation.

Patricia Walker, Loxahatchee, SFWMD, provided an update on the recent Loxahatchee River Initiative symposium. The last symposium was held two years ago. The technology has increased tremendously. A lot of work has been accomplished during

the last two years and overall it has been very rewarding. Sediment, restoration projects and CERP activities were reviewed.

Mr. Mulliken announced that the deadline for alternative water supply plans is April 1, 2004 and an application may be obtained on the District's website or contact Jane Bucca at jbucca@sfwmd.gov. Budget and "Basin A" information deadlines were provided.

2. Action Items from Previous Workshop by John Mulliken.

One of the action items was for staff to contact and meet with local governments on utility plans and population demand projects. Mark. Elsner and staff have accomplished that and will provide a report at the next meeting.

April 2nd will be the date of the next meeting to review the population demand projects and other topics and this may be a full day meeting in order to be able to prepare the final documents.

Discussion held on permitting issues that constituents have had with new owners, including people in the 298 Districts. There is currently no grace period on permits, but staff will work with landowners on this issue.

The cost of permit renewals for citrus growers has increased a great deal and this is hurting the industry. Mr. Bournique will be asking staff and the Governing Board for a break in the price of the permits until the economy improves for the citrus industry.

3. Overview of Process for Plan Update for Plan Update, Mark Elsner, Lead Engineer, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.

Mr. Elsner provided information on the planning process. He asked for input from the stakeholders that can be implemented over the next five years. Stakeholders are to read the information handed out and send a reply to him via email in the next week. The Governing Board will be presented with the information at the April 5, 2004 Board meeting.

4. Discuss Revised Chapter 4 (Issue Identification) and Consolidated Water Supply Support Document by Mark Elsner.

Chapter 4 is on Issue Identification. The data in this chapter needed to be expanded and is now almost double the previous size. Stakeholders reviewed the Chapter that discusses water supply related issues associated with meeting the 2025 projected water supply needs of the Upper East Coast Planning area.

Roundtable discussion on changes to Chapter 4. Stakeholders asked for further information on the Floridan Aquifer System to meet a portion of the existing needs and plan to use the Floridan Aquifer to meet most of their future needs. Clarification of the meaning in the paragraph on Florida Aquifer was provided. Agricultural use of water will decrease in the coming years and there will be an increase in public consumption.

Water availability will be increased due to CERP. Additional information on the “well abandonment program” will be added to the Public Water Supply section of Chapter 4.

Mr. Elsner asked for further comments by stakeholders to be sent to him on Chapter 4.

5. Regional Water Supply – Interbasin Connectivity, by Robert Ulevich, Administrator, St. Johns & Sebastian River Water Control Districts.

Mr. Ulevich spoke on regional water supply and produced a map of the footprint of the central and southern Florida flood control project. Water quality, water quantity and positive groundwater were discussed. 1953-56 historical documents were presented with information on water supply and a series of reservoirs. The information in the documents from 50 years ago addressed some of the same issues that are applicable today.

S-98 Conservation Area, drainage areas relevant to S-98, and concerns over the increases in the cost of land in the area were discussed. When his drainage district releases excess water, it can only go north. He would like to be able to keep water stored for 1,000s of acres of water so it would be available when needed.

All the maps reviewed today come from the Yellow Book and can be obtained at the South Florida Water Management District.

6. Discuss Chapter 5 (Meeting and Managing Future Water Demands)

- **Conclusions**
- **Reclaimed Water**
- **Conservation**
- **Environmental/Storage**
- **Floridan Aquifer**

By Mark Elsner and Bruce Adams, Water Conservation Officer, Planning & Development, Water Supply Department.

Mr. Elsner discussed the water supply options that are available and what will be the best options for the Upper East Coast.

Surface Water Storage/Environmental Supply was the first topic discussed. Headings were (1) Definition and Discussion; (2) St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon; (3) CERP Indian River Lagoon, (4) South Project Implementation Report; (5) Ten Mile Creek Critical Restoration Project; (6) Basin Interconnects; (7) Lake Okeechobee Regulation Releases; (8) Loxahatchee River; (9) Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan; (10) Minimum Flow and Level; (11) Water Reservations; (12) CERP North Palm Beach County Part 1; (13) Current Loxahatchee Basin Activities in Martin County; (14) Tropic Vista and Little Club; (15) Pal-Mar/Cypress Creek/Hobe Grove; (16) Cypress Creek; (17) Pal-Mar East; (18) Kitching Creek Restoration; (19) Surface Water Storage Estimated Costs; (20) Quantify of Water Potentially Available from Surface Water Storage; (21) Surface Water Storage

Recommendations. Mr. Elsner asked for the stakeholders to review and provide him comments.

The ten Surface Water Storage Recommendations were reviewed one by one and comments made by stakeholders.

It was suggested that the land be purchased by the SFWMD and the CORPS as soon as possible due to the rising cost of land. This is a very important matter due to the astronomical escalation of land prices. A message to the WRAC and Governing Board should be sent by this group to urge no delay in purchasing land for restoration.

Mr. Adams presented information on the Water Conservation Conclusions and Recommendations.

Stakeholders reviewed the handout and provided suggested changes. It was suggested that Information on cistern technology for homes with metal roofs be investigated as a water conservation measure.

Mr. Adams provided information on alternative watering methods for homeowners using new technology. Stakeholders spoke on reuse/reclaimed of water. Conservation of water supplies is a win-win situation. Utilities have already established conservation programs and it is hard to add more to their programs.

Floridan Aquifer recommendations were reviewed by Mr. Elsner.

Stakeholder input on the Floridan well inventory and increase in public awareness. The public is reluctant to report wells that are inoperable on their property. Discussion held on landowners and their reporting of wells on their property. Input provided on whether a recommendation should be included to Increase funding for well capping and closing programs. This issue does not affect only the Upper East Coast of Florida, but all South Florida and help from the Florida Legislature may be required.

Changes were made to the Floridan Aquifer chapter by stakeholders.

Chapter on Reclaimed water was discussed by Mr. Elsner and stakeholders. Reclaimed water is being used at a rate of approximately 50%. Review of the four recommendations was provided.

A stakeholder said that at the recent WRAC issues workshops on alternative water supply there were discussions on providing additional incentives if using environmental re-use on wetland restoration.

“Conclusions” was the last handout and was a summary of what District staff have concluded.

7. Public Comment:

Joan Bausch, representing herself, member of the Florida Plant Society, Sewell's Point, Florida, stated that all Florida native plants should be planted in the correct place for conservation. Incentives should be established to promote the use of native plants by the community.

8. Workshop Wrap Up Items

Next meeting will be April 2, 2004 in City of Stuart. The WRAC will meet on April 8, 2004.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Lennart Lindahl
Chairman – UECRWSP

Paula Moree
District Deputy Clerk